

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY PER SECTO 27229

S/S - MR. REDDY

P - MR. HABIB

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

NEA - ALATHERTON, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 233918

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: KHADDAM'S SUGGESTIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 6286

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH KHADDAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
CONVEY THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSALS
AND SUGGESTIONS REFTEL:

-- WE APPRECIATED THE SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR PLANNED PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON LEBANON. KHADDAM'S RECOMMENDED POINTS WILL BE
INCLUDED IN IT.

-- ASSURE KHADDAM CATEGORICALLY THAT WE WOULD REGARD A CUT
IN AID TO SYRIA AS CONTRARY TO OUR POLICY INTERESTS AND THAT
WE HAVE NEVER URGED ANY GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE ITS AID TO
SYRIA OR TO APPLY PRESSURE IN ANY WAY.

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-- THE SECRETARY INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR SYRIA WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THE UNGA.

-- KHADDAM CAN BE ASSURED THAT OUR EXCHANGES WITH HIM AND ASAD ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE HELD IN THE CLOSEST CONFIDENCE,

AS WE ARE CERTAIN THEY WILL BE CLOSELY HELD BY SARG AS WELL.

-- WHILE TRAVELLING IN AFRICA, THE SECRETARY IS CONTINUING TO FOLLOW MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. HE HAS FOLLOWED WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION SYRIA'S CONTINUING CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS AND RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS FOCUSED ON PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS' IMMINENT INAUGURATION. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN A CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE AMONG ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH AND INVOLVED IN LEBANON AND THAT THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY SARKIS WILL INDEED BE A TURNING POINT TOWARD THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF AN INDEPENDENT, STABLE AND UNIFIED LEBANON.

-- THE SECRETARY LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING KHADDAM IN NEW YORK AND TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ROBINSON

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